



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

February 18, 2009

Senator Richard Madaleno  
Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation  
James Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Madaleno,

Bill MC 913-09, sponsored by Delegate Susan Lee, is enabling legislation which would allow Montgomery County to enact campaign finance disclosure requirements that are more stringent than State law. Any such legislation could only affect disclosure requirements for candidates running for the offices of Montgomery County Council and Montgomery County Executive.

As the costs of campaigns continue to rise, the need for the public to have sufficient and timely information about the size and the sources of campaign funds becomes even more important. Campaign disclosure laws are currently regulated by the State. The passage of this bill is critical to the ability of County leaders to be able to ensure that campaign finance disclosure requirements can be appropriately strengthened and tailored to meet the needs of Montgomery County, which are not necessarily the same as other counties with much smaller populations. This bill is narrowly tailored and would have no fiscal impact on the State, nor would it have any effect on candidates for State offices.

We are proponents of more openness in government as well as in the election process. Enactment of this bill would go far in enabling the County to further this goal. We urge the delegation to support this important legislation, and to oppose any amendment that would limit the ability of the County to act in this area of election law. Thank you for the delegation's consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

Phil Andrews, President  
Montgomery County Council